Desktop

Latest Information from the NRL Labwide ADP Program and the NRL Systems Support Team

Microsoft Outlook Security Bulletin

The following excerpt from a recent Microsoft Security News Bulletin has been sent to NRL NTRs by Jeff Sohlke of Code 1221.

Last week a new virus began circulating through e-mail that has the potential to affect a wide range of e-mail users including those users running **Microsoft Outlook**. If run, the virus could overwrite .jpg, .mp3 and other file types, and attempt to send a copy of itself to everyone in the recipient's address book.

The e-mail containing the virus typically carries a subject line of "ILOVEYOU" (although other variants have also arisen with the subject lines containing text such as Mother's Day, Joke, and Virus Alert). Inside the mail is a short text message saying "Kindly check the attached LOVELETTER coming from me" and an attachment named LOVE-LETTER-FOR-YOU.txt.vbs. If you receive this message or any of the related messages, it is important to delete the message immediately and empty it from your *Deleted Items* folder. It is important to note that this virus cannot run by itself. In order for it to run, the recipient must open the mail, launch the attachment by double-clicking on it, and answer "yes" to a dialogue that warns of the dangers of running untrusted programs. For more information on this virus and all other Microsoft security information, please see: **http://www.Microsoft.com/security.**

Re: NRL Notice 5239
Security of NRL Systems on the Internet

The date set for the elimination of clear-text passwords on NRL networked systems is rapidly approaching(see **http://security.nrl.navy.mil/nrl/net-note.htm**). NRL System Administrators have been tasked to implement the encryption of passwords used to remotely access their systems regardless of the service being provided, i.e. establishing a remote login session, reading email, or browsing a web server.

It will be necessary for many NRL users to continue to access non-NRL systems with clear-text passwords. While it is important to use separate passwords for secure and non-secure access, users should follow security guidelines for proper selection and usage of passwords in both cases (see **http://security.nrl.navy.mil/nrl/compsec.htm**).

In preparation for the completion of this task by 31 May 2000, a systematic review of the available options is in order. Please note that access control and logging should be in place on all NRL hosts at this time. For information on the current security guidelines regarding password encryption, see the web page:

> **http://amp.nrl.navy.mil/code5595/security**

If you have any questions or need assistance with password encryption issues, Code 5595 is available to help. You may contact Systems Support on 767-5853 or via email to **syssupport@nrl.navy.mil**. ∎

Upcoming Courses

To register for these courses, please visit the Code 5595 Training web page at **amp.nrl.navy.mil/code5595;** course descriptions are also available there. If there are any questions concerning the courses please contact *Ralph Thompson* on (202) 404-3143, or **thompsor@ccs.nrl.navy.mil**.

1. **Implementing & Supporting TCP/IP on Windows NT 4.0** (5 full days)

   Dates: May 16-18 & May 23, 24

   Overview: Students will learn the skills required to install, configure, use and support TCP/IP on Windows NT Server 4.0.

   Prerequisites: Windows NT 4.0: System Architecture and Network Support, or equivalent knowledge.

2. **Internet Information Server; Web Site Administration** (3 full days)

   Dates: June 13-15

   Overview: Students will learn how to install, configure, and manage a web site based on Microsoft's IIS 4.0

   Prerequisites: Windows NT 4.0: System Architecture and Network Support, or equivalent knowledge and Implemening & Supporting TCP/IP. ∎

- *All courses will be held in the Building 72 Annex.*

- *Classes start at 9:00 a.m.*

- *The courses are presented by a Microsoft Certified Instructor.*

- *Class size is limited to 12 students per course.*

CBT Training Update

On-line computer based training (CBT) accessible from the web is now available for Window-based systems (Window 95/98 and Windows NT). There are 225 CBT courses covering a wide variety of Information Technology and Business concepts.

For more information and a complete course listing, please access web page:

amp.nrl.navy.mil/code5595/ ccs-training

Access to the courses for other operating systems (Unix and Macintosh) will be available in the near future. Check the CCS training page periodically for updates.

If you have any questions about CBT, send email to **syssupport@nrl.navy.mil**. ∎

Linux Training at NRL

In conjunction with the Lab-Wide ADP office, SES and SGI are teaming up to offer the Naval Research Laboratory the latest and best in comprehensive Linux training.

Linux training will be offered at NRL at substantial savings and at your site for total convenience.

Where do your skills lie? What interests you? Don't know? Check out the course descriptions at **www.sgi.com/ support/custeducation/us/**.

Courses include:

- *Introduction to Linux*
- *Linux System Administration*
- *Linux System Administration 2*
- *Advanced System Administration*
- *Linux / IRIX / Windows NT Interoperability*
- *Managing Linux Security*
- *C++ Programming for Linux*
- *Java Programming for Linux*
- *Linux Tools and System Programming*
- *Linux Device Drivers*

However, we need your help so we can provide the on-site training courses you really need. Those responding will be grouped, and an assessment will follow to ensure the right training at the right level is being provided.

Please send responses to *Chris Childs* at **chris@s-e-s.com**, or you may also send responses to *Dale Richards* at **drichards@sgi.com.** ■

Below are a series of tips and best practices that can help Outlook users increase their security protection to avoid being affected by these types of viruses in the future.

1) Customers can avoid being affected by this and other viruses by following standard best practices:

++ Never run an executable from someone you don't know.
++ Always have a good-quality virus scanner.
++ Always keep the virus scanner's signature files up to date.

2) Outlook users should install the E**-mail Attachment Security Update** from the Office Update Web site. This update increases the security protection provided by Outlook for certain types of e-mail attachments. Once installed, this update will change the attachment dialog box when certain attachments such as executables are opened so that users see more explicit warning language and will be required to save the attachment to the file system before opening it. This update helps users avoid accidentally releasing viruses that hide in .exe files or from file extensions they are not familiar with. It is important to note that saving the attachment to the file system does not automatically remove any virus that may be present. Before opening the attachment users must scan it using an updated anti-virus software program. This update also prevents Worm viruses from spreading through the Outlook Address Book. The primary benefit of this update is to ensure users are aware of the potential security risk of attachments and to decrease the potential for viruses to be spread through the Outlook Address Book. This update is also included as part of Office 2000 SR-1.

These updates are located at:

• Office 2000 Service Release 1-
http://officeupdate.microsoft.com/2000/downloadDetails/O2kSR1DDL.htm

• Outlook 2000 E-mail Attachment Security Update-
http://officeupdate.microsoft.com/2000/downloadDetails/O2Kattch.htm

• Outlook 98 E-mail Attachment Security Update-
http://officeupdate.microsoft.com/downloadDetails/O98attch.htm

• Outlook 97 E-mail Attachment Security Update-
http://officeupdate.microsoft.com/downloadDetails/O97attch.htm

3) If you use Outlook 2000, use the option to set your attachment security setting to *High*. When security is set to *High*, users will receive a warning before opening an attachment. To make sure your setting is set to High:

1) On the Tools menu select *Options*

2) Select the *Security* Tab

3) Click on the *Attachment* Security button

4) Select *High* (if not already selected)

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Training Library

In addition to the on-line computer-based training added recently, Code 5595 will be offering multimedia training materials available for checkout. Many of the titles are the same ones offered by the Training Branch previously, but new training materials have also been added and additional titles will be added soon. The materials consist of VHS tapes, CD-Rom based training courses, and books with accompanying tapes or CD's. The subjects range from courses designed to help you get Microsoft certified to video sets on Lasers or Optical Engineering.

The material will be available on a first-come basis and may be checked out on-line. For more information and a complete listing of materials, please access **http://amp.nrl.navy.mil/code5595/ccs-training** and select the link for the Training Library.   Additional information may be requested by sending mail to **syssupport@nrl.navy.mil**. ∎

Stuffit Deluxe 5.5

The CCS has obtained a Volume Discount License for Stuffit Deluxe 5.5 for the Macintosh. It is posted free of charge on the CCS web-page at **http://amp.nrl.navy.mil/code5595/**. Select the **Site/Volume Discount Licenses** link in the lower left hand frame, then scroll down to select **Stuffit**, fill in your name, code, and e-mail address and click the **Submit** button. ∎

Email Addresses for Help at NRL

- **ccshelp@nrl.navy.mil**
    Center for Computational Science
    HPC Program
    Visualization Lab

- **syssupport@nrl.navy.mil**
    Labwide Contracts
    Systems Support

- **sechelp@security.nrl.navy.mil**
    NRL Security

- **netgroup@nrl.navy.mil**
    Networking Group

- **dialin@nrl.navy.mil**
    NRL dial-in support

- **hostmaster@nrl.navy.mil**
    DNS questions

- **mailmgr@nrl.navy.mil**
    labwide email
    distribution groups

- **ntr-list@grizzly.nrl.navy.mil**
    NRL Network Technical Rep's

- **suggestion.box@library.nrl.navy.mil**
    Ruth Hooker Library

- **helpmis@labmis.nrl.navy.mil**
    Management Information Systems

- **helpsupply@labmis.nrl.navy.mil**
    Supply

- **helppips@labmis.nrl.navy.mil**
    Procurement Information

- **formstore@labmis.nrl.navy.mil**
    NRL Forms

- **labstracts@nrl.navy.mil**
    NRL Newsletter

- **info@nrlfcu.org**
    NRL Credit Union